

Kinsey Bridge
Spanning the Yellowstone River
on the Milwaukee Road
Miles City Vicinity
Custer County
Montana

HAER No. MT-14

HAER
MONT,
9 - MILCIV,
2 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Kinsey Bridge

MT-14

HAER
MONT,
9-MILWAU,
2-

Location: Spanning the Yellowstone River on the Milwaukee Road, nine miles northeast of Miles City, Custer County, Montana.

Date of Construction: ca. 1907

Present Owner: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad
516 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Present Use: Railroad Bridge

Significance In 1907-1908, a new transcontinental railroad was built through Montana. The railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific, runs along the north bank of the Yellowstone for about 80 miles between Terry and Forsyth, except where it crosses at this point for a junction in Miles City with the Burlington Northern (formerly the Northern Pacific). This 1080 foot, four span bridge is the middle of three almost identical Milwaukee Road bridges over the Yellowstone. Each of the four pin-connected Parker through truss spans is 270 feet in length. The truss superstructures are as follows: the lower chord of the outside two panels at each end is laced composit channel sections and the rest of the lower chord is eyebars; verticals are laced composit channel sections; diagonals are eyebars with turnbuckles; the upper chord is a continuous plate riveted atop two composit channel sections with lacing bars riveted to their lower flanges. The spans rest on concrete abutments and 3 concrete piers. Because the tracks are not perpendicular to the flow of the river, the piers and abutments are not perpendicular to the trusses. Therefore, the bridge supports are skewed about 4 feet and the inclined end posts are not parallel to one another. This offset occurs only at the end panels; all other panels are in line with each other. Composite I-beam stringers are riveted to the web of composite I-beam floor beams which are riveted to the superstructure. A deck of wood ties rests on the stringers and carries one set of tracks. This bridge was probably built in 1907 by the

American Bridge Company of New York. In early 1980, the Milwaukee Road abandoned its tracks west of Miles City. The tracks east of Miles City, and this bridge are being maintained under a subsidy from the State of South Dakota.

Transmitted by:

Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Fredric L. Quivik, 1979